



CUBAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

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Dear Congresswoman Lujan Grisham,

On behalf of the Cuban American Bar Association (CABA), the largest voluntary bar organization in the State of Florida. CABA is a non-partisan and non-political association. We highly recommend Representative Carlos Curbelo for membership to the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

As an introduction, CABA's members include judges, lawyers, and law students of all backgrounds. Our mission is to promote equality of our members; increase diversity in the judiciary and legal community; serve the public interest by increasing awareness to the study of jurisprudence; foster respect for the law; preserve high standards of integrity, honor, and professional courtesy among our peers; provide equal access to and adequate representation of all minorities before the courts; facilitate the administration of justice; build close relationships among our members; provide mentoring and scholarship to law students nationally; and support the indigent community through the funding and administration of an effective pro bono legal assistance project and other community programs.

Mr. Curbelo has a strong record of working across the aisle. According to the Lugar Center and Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy Bipartisan Index, a non-partisan ranking of how often each Member of Congress works across party lines, Mr. Curbelo was ranked 11 out of 427 Members of Congress. Indeed, every piece of legislation Mr. Curbelo has introduced in the 115th Congress has had a Democratic cosponsor.

He's introduced the Recognizing America's Children Act to help provide permanent legal status to undocumented immigrant youths, the ESPERER Act to provide permanent legal status to long-term TPS recipients, and his legislative language was included in the Every Student Succeeds Act last Congress, which created a fairer accountability system for all students, specifically English language learners.

According to the Congressional Hispanic Caucus's website, the function of the Caucus is to serve as a forum for the Hispanic Members of Congress to coalesce around a collective legislative agenda. The Caucus is dedicated to voicing and advancing, through the legislative process, issues affecting Hispanics in the United States. Mr. Curbelo, as a Cuban-American member of Congress, is in position to help advance these goals, offering his own perspectives and ideas, to achieve tangible results.

Members of CABA were concerned to read that the Congressional Hispanic Caucus requested guidance from the House Administration Committee on whether the Caucus was even required to let a Republican join the Caucus. This should not be a political event; if the Caucus is to carry out its function as a forum for Hispanic Members of Congress, then it should welcome ALL Hispanic Members of Congress that wish to join and contribute in a collaborative effort.



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The Hispanic community is not monolithic and does not prescribe to a single ideology or world-view. It is a dynamic and diverse community and all voices should be welcome if the Congressional Hispanic Caucus is to live up to its ideals. We look forward to seeing the outcome of your deliberations regarding Mr. Curbelo's application.

Thank you. We hope you do the right thing for our entire community and accept him as a member of the Caucus.

Sincerely,

Javier A. Lopez
President